

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Friday that the House Armed Services Committee authorized \$12.9 million for two defense-related projects in San Antonio.

At Kelly Annex Field, \$7.9 million is authorized to improve and upgrade an Aircraft Maintenance Building that will provide a place where F-16 fighter jets can be properly maintained. The building, while structurally sound, must be brought up to code. These funds will ensure the secure and environmentally sound storage and operation of aircraft parts and equipment.

Another \$5 million was authorized by the Committee for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Blacklight Night Vision Advanced Technology, manufactured by San Antonio-based Mission Technologies, Inc. This cutting-edge technology will allow military units to deploy miniature drones that can provide immediate, site-specific surveillance information.

“San Antonio continues to be a military leader in operations and the advancement of technology,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “These authorizations will bolster the ability of our troops to do their jobs more safely and efficiently.”

Rodriguez also announced a \$3 million authorization for a project at Applied Research Associates’ Research & Testing Center in Pecos. The research project – Thresholds for Neurological Injuries from Repeated Blast Exposures - will study troop safety during and after repeated blasts, such as those created by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), grenades and artillery.